

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N.Y. 10027

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy Hall

460 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10027
January 31, 1978

Dr. Joshua Lederburg
Rockefeller University
York Avenue and 67th Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Joshua Lederburg,

Ever since I heard of your appointment as President of R.U. I have intended to write you: Hearty congratulations to you and to the University. How many years is it since I was congratulating you on your Nobel Prize?— you remain the only one of my many students who ever received that award (I have always remembered your taking the time to send me a postal from Stockholm.) And how many more years since you walked into my Hamilton Hall to apply, I think, for admission to the Colloquium on Important Books? I know that I made many mistakes over the years in the advice I gave students and in my estimate of their capacities but I don't think I made a mistake on that occasion and hope you agree. I hope, too, that you won't misunderstand me if I say that in more ways than one you were an unusual applicant!

I should like to hope, also, that when you settle down at Rockefeller (or don't presidents settle down these days?) I might have an opportunity to see you again. After sixteen years as a widower I remarried last year — odd being an octogeharian and a young, or rather a new, bridegroom. My wife and I were school-mates and she was the widow of my friend Horace Friess whom you may have known as another member of the Columbia Philosophy Department. For the past few months we have both been ill but seem to be mending. When you are in NYC before or after you take up your new duties I would be delighted if you could spare an hour and drop by at 460 Riverside for a drink or whatever — phone: UN 4 1609. But, of course, I'd understand if this were impossible and though it is a bit difficult right now I would be more than happy to drop in at your office for a few minutes.

With renewed congratulations and all good wishes,

Cordially,

James Gutmann
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